



File Code: 1900
Date: November 2, 2015

Dear Interested Parties:

I have decided to implement Alternative 2 of the Mixed Use Project after considering public input and a thorough environmental analysis that occurred throughout the development of this project. I think this alternative will best accomplish safe and environmentally sound recreational long distance riding opportunities in this area of the Forest.

The Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Mixed Use Project is similar to the draft Decision Notice I sent to interested parties in June and provides greater detail on the activities of the chosen alternative and my reasons for selecting Alternative 2. Please read through the document to understand my rationale and the consideration of trade-offs made to provide this recreation opportunity. The Decision Notice and other related documents for the Mixed Use Project are available on the Superior National Forest website:

www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=40836. Printed copies are also available upon request from the Kawishiwi Ranger District. I would like to thank those who provided comments on this project that helped me to make an informed decision.

I received three objections on the project during the objection period and no additional comments. These objections included concerns over trespassing on private land, safety of local residents using the road, and garbage. The interdisciplinary team, including resource specialists and myself, met with the objectors to determine mitigations that could be incorporated into the Final DN to address their objections. All three parties withdrew their objections after being satisfied that the mitigations we agreed upon would address their concerns. More information on the objections can be found in the DN under Implementation.

We now move to the implementation phase of the project which includes the brushing of road corners for better visibility, the installation of signs to indicate Mixed Use, the widening of a rock cut for safer passage, and notification to frequent road users including outfitters and livery services of the change to mixed use. These and other actions necessary such as monitoring for illegal use and the inclusion of these routes on the Forest's Motor Vehicle Use Map will occur in the near future.

I appreciate the time you have taken to participate in this project and hope you will continue to be involved as we move forward. If you would like more on this project, please contact John Pierce, Recreation Planner, at 218-365-7606 or jpierce@fs.fed.us or myself at 218-365-7600 or douglasfsmith@fs.fed.us

Sincerely,

Douglas Smith, Kawishiwi District Ranger

